GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:135
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
CONDITION OF FARMERS
Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the living condition of Indian Farmers is totally unsatisfactory in spite of India`s emerging as an agricultural power;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated/will formulate any new policy for the welfare of farmers who are the backbone of our economy;

(c) if so, the salient features of this policy;

(d) whether some reforms in the farm sector are proposed to be introduced to improve farmers` social and financial condition; and

(e) if so, the suggestions received in this regard from various sectors, if any and the steps/action proposed to be taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (e): It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to improve the living conditions of farmers in the country. The strategy formulated by the Government for making the agricultural sector more vibrant and dynamic so as to increase the income of the farmers include:

(i) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs;
(ii) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities;
(iii) optimizing the efficient utiliztion of available water resources through micro-irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dryland/rainfed farming system;
(iv) promoting farmer-friendly, demand-driven agriculture extension system;
(v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain;
(vi) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post-harvest technology;
(vii) increasing of institutional credit flow and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; and
(viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

The suggestions for reforms as and when received are given due consideration by the Government while framing policy/programme for increasing agriculture production and productivity.